

## Dr. Burgess Weekly Address September 1, 2017

### Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts

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Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

This week, our Texas community was shocked by the devastation that occurred in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Our hearts are heavy as we mourn the lives that have been lost and consider the damage our neighbors in southeast Texas have sustained.

I am thankful for the many first responders who came to the aid of those in harm's way. Many of us have been struck by the heroism displayed in Houston over the course of the hurricane and the flooding. What we witnessed this week was the best of our American spirit: neighbors helping neighbors, citizens helping citizens.

Here in the 26<sup>th</sup> District, I was able to visit the FEMA Region 6 Headquarters, where I was briefed on the impressive coordination of rescue and recovery efforts by federal and local agencies. In fact, many volunteers from North Texas have mobilized to help hurricane victims. At the mega-shelter set up in the Dallas Convention Center, I met with medical volunteers and others who have been helping people who have been evacuated from flooded areas. From deploying volunteers and equipment to collecting donated items, many have contributed to this cause.

Responding to a disaster of this magnitude takes a team effort. I am grateful for the leadership of President Trump, Governor Abbott, Senators Cornyn and Cruz, and the many local officials who have been working to coordinate emergency response.

At this point, it's far too early to predict the full scope of the damage caused by the storm and subsequent flooding. I expect that you will see Congress working on aid as early as next week, but keep in mind this is only the beginning of the story. As we know more about the breadth of the storm, we will have a better understanding of how we can best help the Texans affected by Hurricane Harvey.

The people of Houston face a long recovery, but of this I am sure: Texans are strong and resilient Americans, and we stick together and we get the job done. No storm could ever compromise the spirit of our neighbors, and I know that they will recover from this disaster.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your concerns on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.